

BLOOMSDAY WEATHER THROUGH THE YEARS

Compiled by the National Weather Service in Spokane. All times are PDT.
All data recorded at the Spokane International Airport.

May 3, 1977

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	59	36%	NE 10 MPH	12.0 hours - 82%
11:00 AM	70	29%	NE 13 MPH	
2:00 PM	78	26%	E 7 MPH	

Mostly sunny. The maximum temperature was 81.

May 7, 1978

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	48	68%	N 5 MPH	14.0 hours - 95%
11:00 AM	58	42%	NW 8 MPH	
2:00 PM	67	20%	NE 23 MPH	

Sunny with high thin clouds. The maximum temperature was 69.

May 6, 1979

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	42	83%	SW 16 MPH	12.0 hours - 82%
11:00 AM	52	61%	SW 19 MPH	
2:00 PM	54	53%	SW 17 MPH	

Partly Sunny. The maximum temperature was 57.

May 4, 1980

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	55	72%	NE 6 MPH	14.6 Hours 100%
11:00 AM	67	53%	NE 8 MPH	
2:00 PM	78	38%	NE 9 MPH	

Sunny all day. The maximum temperature was 81.

May 3, 1981

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	41	76%	S 9 MPH	6.0 Hours - 41%
11:00 AM	52	55%	SW 10 MPH	
2:00 PM	54	49%	SE 9 MPH	

Mostly cloudy during the day with a light rain shower at 1:00 PM (lasted 10 minutes). The maximum temperature was 59.

May 2, 1982

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	51	64%	SE 9 MPH	9.4 hours 85%
11:00 AM	61	41%	SW 13 MPH	
2:00 PM	62	40 %	SW 16 MPH	

Sunny at first, but clouds increased and sky was mostly cloudy by noon. The maximum temperature was 62.

May 1, 1983

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	47	80%	N 4 MPH	12.9 hours 89%
11:00 AM	57	51%	NE 5 MPH	
2:00 PM	64	38 %	NW 8 MPH	

Clear and sunny at the start. Remained sunny all day with a few fair weather cumulus by noon. The maximum temperature was 67.

May 6, 1984

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	34	89%	S 8 MPH	1.7 hours 12%
11:00 AM	36	89%	S 8 MPH	
2:00 PM	42	76%	SW 6 MPH	

Cloudy all day with 1 to 2 inches of snowfall before the race. Light rain or rain and snow mixed continued until 12:30 PM. The maximum temperature was 47 degrees.

May 5, 1985

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	38	79%	S 9 MPH	12.8 hours 88%
11:00 AM	49	52%	S 7 MPH	
2:00 PM	54	36%	E 5 MPH	

Sky was fair at 8:00 AM and became partly cloudy in the late morning and into the afternoon. The maximum temperature was 58.

May 4, 1986

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	45	79%	SW 7 MPH	8.1 hours 56%
11:00 AM	52	63%	SW 15 MPH	
2:00 PM	55	47%	SW 17 MPH	

Cloudy all day with light rain showers in the morning until 7:30 and again in the late afternoon. The maximum temperature was 58.

May 3, 1987

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	46	86%	S 10 MPH	8.1 hours 56%
11:00 AM	53	54%	SW 13 MPH	
2:00 PM	57	47%	SE 10 MPH	

Sunny in the morning and sky was mostly cloudy by the afternoon. The maximum temperature was 62.

May 1, 1988

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	34	79%	SE 9 MPH	12.3 hours 85%
11:00 AM	45	56%	SW 12 MPH	
2:00 PM	51	30%	SW 15 MPH	

Snow had ended at 7:40 AM and skies were partly cloudy by 8:00 AM. The skies remained partly sunny in the morning and clouds began to increase again in the afternoon. The maximum temperature was 55.

May 7, 1989

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	58	87%	S 5 MPH	12.8 hours 86%
11:00 AM	67	59%	S 8 MPH	
2:00 PM	73	44%	SW 9 MPH	

Trace of rain in the late afternoon. Race time skies - partly to mostly cloudy. The maximum temperature was 76.

May 6, 1990

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	46	39%	SW 12G29 MPH	12.5 hours 86%
11:00 AM	50	28%	SW 20G31 MPH	
2:00 PM	54	28%	SW 22G31 MPH	

Trace amounts of rain fell during the afternoon. It was very windy with a peak gust of 46 mph at 6:27 pm. SW winds gusting to 30 mph throughout the race. The maximum temperature was 60.

May 5, 1991

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	48	60%	S 11 MPH	2.2 hours 15%
11:00 AM	57	45%	S 13 MPH	
2:00 PM	52	73%	SE 11 MPH	

Light rain fell during the afternoon. The maximum temperature was 57.

May 3, 1992

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	49	68%	NE 11 MPH	12.9 hours 100%
11:00 AM	65	41%	E 9 MPH	
2:00 PM	75	22%	NE 4 MPH	

Sunny skies. The maximum temperature was 78.

May 2, 1993

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	44	82%	S 15 MPH	12.5 hours 86%
11:00 AM	51	58%	SW 13 MPH	
2:00 PM	57	41%	W 17 MPH	

Wind gusts to 26 mph in the afternoon. Race time skies - partly cloudy. The maximum temperature was 57.

May 1, 1994

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	41	79%	S 11 MPH	12.0 hours 83%
11:00 AM	53	42%	W 16 MPH	
2:00 PM	59	29%	SW 8 MPH	

Clear at the start of the race. High thin clouds by afternoon. The maximum temperature was 59.

May 7, 1995

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	52	68%	NE 8 MPH	8.2 hours 55%
11:00 AM	58	47%	E 16 MPH	
2:00 PM	61	45%	NE 8 MPH	

Light rain at the start of the race. Stopped by 10 AM. Cloudy for the remainder of the morning and early afternoon. The maximum temperature was 66.

May 5, 1996

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	40	79%	NE 8 MPH	Missing
11:00 AM	52	45%	NE 6 MPH	
2:00 PM	56	34%	CALM	

It was sunny throughout the race. The high temperature for the day was 58 degrees.

May 4, 1997

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	44	90%	SW 13 MPH	7.5 Hours 51%
11:00 AM	50	74%	S 15 MPH	
2:00 PM	58	49%	SW 15 MPH	

Before the race, it was cloudy overnight with light rain. At start time the clouds were breaking up and skies were partly cloudy throughout the remainder of the day. The high temperature for the day was 60 degrees.

May 3, 1998

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	57	72%	S 15 MPH	13.3 Hours 92%
11:00 AM	66	56%	SW 10 MPH	
2:00 PM	71	47%	SW 9 MPH	

Skies were partly cloudy at the start of the race and became mostly sunny by midday. The high temperature for the day was 74 degrees.

May 2, 1999

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	39	89%	SW 12 MPH	8.8 Hours 61%
11:00 AM	41	89%	SW 14 MPH	
2:00 PM	43	86%	SW 24 MPH	

Skies were cloudy with rain falling on and off throughout the race. There were some brief sun breaks at midday and clearing skies in the late afternoon. 0.07 inches of rain fell between 8 AM and 2 PM. The high temperature for the day was 47 degrees with 0.13 inches of rain measured.

May 7, 2000

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	40	76%	NE 8 MPH	13.3 Hours 91%
11:00 AM	51	50%	CALM	
2:00 PM	56	31%	W 8 MPH	

Skies were sunny at the start of the race, with only a few clouds developing by mid day. The high temperature for the day was 59 degrees.

May 6, 2001

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	38	62%	SE 6 MPH	14.3 Hours 98%
11:00 AM	50	44%	SE 6 MPH	
2:00 PM	55	34%	SW 7 MPH	

Sunny skies. The high temperature for the day was 57 degrees.

May 5, 2002

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	41	65%	S 15 MPH	8.4 Hours 57%
11:00 AM	46	65%	S 18 MPH	
2:00 PM	43	73%	CALM	

Skies were mostly cloudy with mid/high clouds at the beginning of the race. Light rain began at 948am mixed with small hail at 1030am and between 100pm -130pm. A thunderstorm with small hail at 200pm dropped the temperature back into the low 40s. 0.07" of precipitation fell during the race. The high temperature for the day was 51 degrees with a total of 0.28" precipitation measured and 0.4" snow/graupele.

May 4, 2003

Time	Temp	RH	Wind	Sunshine
8:00 AM	43	76%	S 13 MPH	7.2 Hours 49%
11:00 AM	48	63%	S 13 MPH	
2:00 PM	49	62%	W 15G20 MPH	

Skies were mostly cloudy with mid clouds as the participants lined up to start. The clouds lowered and intermittent light rain began at 836 am and continued through the day. The high temperature for the day was 52 degrees with a total of 0.02" precipitation measured.

Coollest Bloomsdays

May 6, 1984

There was 1 to 2 inches of new snow in the morning before the race. Skies remained cloudy all day with light rain and snow falling most of the morning. The high temperature for the day was 47 degrees.

May 2, 1999

Although there was no snow, skies were cloudy with rain falling on and off throughout the race. There were some brief sun breaks at midday and clearing skies in the late afternoon. 0.07 inches of rain fell between 8 AM and 2 PM. The high temperature for the day was 47 degrees with 0.13 inches of rain measured.

Warmest Bloomsdays

May 1, 1977

Mostly sunny all day with a high temperature of 81.

May 4, 1980

Sunny all day with a high of 81.

Climatology

For May 5 (30 year climatology 1971-2000)

Average High	63
Average Low	40
Sunrise	5:26 AM PDT
Sunset	8:07 PM PDT

For May 1 - May 7 (1881 - 2003)

All Time High	92 - May 5, 1966
All Time Low	24 - May 1, 1954
Record Low Max	42 - May 2, 1950
Record High Min	57 - May 7, 1947
Most Precipitation	0.75" - May 4, 1888, 0.63" - May 2, 1995
Most Snowfall	0.8" - May 6, 1984

It snowed 3.5 inches on May 11, 1967

What are the possible weather extremes for Bloomsday?

The all time high for early May of 92 degrees (set on 5/5/92) suggests Bloomsday could be quite warm. Moderate to heavy rain on the preceding days could combine with warm temperatures to produce an unusual hot and muggy day.

The strongest wind recorded at Spokane International in May is 53 mph. Running against a strong breeze is not ideal. Steady winds and temperatures in the upper 20s or lower 30s would likely result in some discomfort among the tens of thousands out in the elements on Bloomsday.

The worst wind scenario would likely be dry conditions for the months and week preceding Bloomsday and steady southwest breezes of 30 plus mph combining for reduced visibilities and high levels of airborne particulates with blowing dust.

Heavy rain is unlikely, but not impossible. Rainfall rates up to 1 inch per hour have occurred in the spring in Spokane. These conditions likely

coupled with temperatures in the 30s and 40s would not be welcome in Spokane on the first Sunday in May.

Spring showers are common in Spokane during the first week of May. Many of the past Bloomsdays had light and intermittent showers. This type of activity is more likely in the afternoon, but can occur in the morning. Taking this type of weather to the extreme introduces hazards such as lightning, strong winds, hail and tornadoes. The small soft hail that occurs frequently in the spring has visited Bloomsday from time to time. Thunderstorms have also occurred on the first Sunday in May in Spokane. The occurrence of strong thunderstorm winds, large hail and tornadoes is very rare in Spokane, but cannot be completely ruled out during the more favored months of May and June.

Snowfall in May in Spokane is unusual, but not unheard of. Two of the past Bloomsdays (1984 and 2002) have had some snow or hail falling from the sky. The records at Spokane International show an extreme 3.5 inches of snow on May 11, 1967. But the worst Bloomsday weather scenario nearly came to pass in May 2002.

On Tuesday May 7, 2002 (two days after the race) about 20 miles west of the course, up to 19 inches of snow fell in a very unusual late season storm. This was not a high elevation mountain storm; it occurred across the 2500 foot elevation west plains areas of Davenport, Rearden and Airway Heights. This storm brought only ½ inch of snow to Spokane International and just a few flakes to the downtown area.

Needless to say an event like this over the downtown area on the first Sunday in May would put a real damper on Bloomsday.